



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
Rashmi K. Shah, et al.

Serial No. 09/168,770

Filed: October 8, 1998

FLAMELESS COMBUSTOR
PROCESS HEATER

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GROUP ART UNIT 1744

Examiner: F. Varcoe, Jr.

March 7, 2001

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D. C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please consider the following remarks prior to examination of this file wrapper
continuation under § 1.62 of U. S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/168,770.

REMARKS

In the parent case, Serial Number 09/168,770, Examiner finally rejected Claims 1-7 under
35 U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Minet et al., U. S. Patent No. 4,692,306, in view of
Mikus, U. S. Patent No. 5,255,742.

Examiner asserted Minet disclosed an oxidation chamber (Minet, Figure 1(12)) having an
inlet for oxidation, an outlet for combustion products, and a flow path between the inlet and outlet.
Examiner further asserted Minet disclosed a fuel conduit (44) capable of transporting a fuel
mixture to a plurality of fuel nozzles within the reaction chamber, each nozzle providing
communication from within the fuel conduit to the oxidation chamber, with each nozzle along the
flow path between the inlet and outlet.(Minet, Fig. 1(44)).

Examiner further asserted the instant claim claims only the transportation capability, not
the existence of a plurality of fuel nozzles, but that the existence of such nozzles would have
been obvious in light of Mikus, Figure 1, stating Mikus discloses a plurality of fuel nozzles, Mikus,
Figure 1, (13), in a burner flameless combustion heating apparatus.

